Research Intern, Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit at the Massachusetts General Hospital

Research Intern (unpaid), Psychiatric & Neurodevelopmental Genetics Unit (PNGU), Center for Genomic Medicine at the Massachusetts General Hospital. Estimated start date: June 14, 2018.

The mission of PNGU is to identify and characterize the genetic basis of psychiatric, behavioral, and neurodevelopmental disorders and to translate these discoveries to improvements in clinical care and public health. The student will work closely with the Clinical Research Coordinator and research team of Jeremiah Scharf, M.D., Ph.D. in a professional research setting on studies investigating the genetic basis and shared behavioral components of Tourette Syndrome (TS), Attention Deficit-Hyperactivity Disorder, and Obsessive-Compulsive Disorder.

Current studies examine clinical predictors of tic persistence and severity in adulthood through an online re-contact study, and assess prenatal/perinatal risk factors for TS through electronic health records. An additional study focuses on collecting blood samples and coordinating skin biopsies to generate induce pluripotent stem cells (iPSCs) that may be used to generate patient-specific cellular models of TS and OCD for in vitro studies.

Tasks include data entry from clinical interviews, recruiting and guiding participants through the current research studies, and helping to coordinate the collection of biospecimens from participants. Opportunities to observe clinical visits with participants and/or patients may be available. Overall, there will be ample exposure to the operations of a clinical research team. The intern will likely learn a great deal about Tourette syndrome and related neuropsychiatric conditions (OCD, ADHD, anxiety).

Desired Qualifications: Some knowledge of psychological terms and abnormal psychology helpful. Experience with research and data entry desired.

Skills: Must have good organizational skills and attention to detail.

Personal Qualities: Interest in research and/or clinical neurology/psychiatry. Must feel comfortable working in a team atmosphere. Good interpersonal skills required.

General commitment/timeline: At least 8-10 hours/week required. Commitment may vary depending on your availability and/or your university’s requirements.

Transportation:
T Green Line: Get off at Government Center. Upon exiting the stairs, turn right and walk down Cambridge Street (passing the JFK building on your left). The Simches Research Center is in the Charles River Plaza, located on the right side of the street, next to CVS.

T Red Line: Get off at Charles/MGH. Walk up Cambridge St. away from the river, passing the Wyndham Hotel and an Au Bon Pain on your left. Take the stairs on the left up to the Charles River Plaza Shopping Center. The Simches Research Center is located next to the CVS and Whole Foods.

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